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# Message Text

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16
ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 L-03 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 OC-06 CCO-00

USPS-02 PM-07 /075 R

DRAFTED BY EB/AN:RCPARR:DAP
APPROVED BY EB/AN:MHSTYLES
L/E - MR. GAITHER (SUBS)
EUR/NE - MR. FLOYD
CAB - MR. BURCH
USAF - CAPT. HAZARD (SUBS)
---------- 112182
R 152222Z JAN 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO DOD

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E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: ETRN, UK
SUBJECT: CIVAIR - MILITARY MAIL TO PARIS AND ROME
REF: LONDON 564

1. EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO SEND TO DTI WRITTEN REQUEST FOR PERMISSION FOR US AIRLINES TO CARRY US MILITARY MAILS ON LONDON-PARIS AND LONDON-ROME SCHEDULED CARGO SERVICES, NOTING THAT UNDER LETTER OF FEBRUARY 1, 1973 TO US POSTAL AUTHORITIES BRITISH MINISTRY OF POSTS POSED NO OBJECTION TO RAMP TRANSFERS OF SUCH MAIL AT HEATHROW. LETTER TO DTI SHOULD NOTE THAT, FOR SECURITY REASONS, THIS MAIL, MUCH OF IT REGISTERED AND CLASSIFIED UP TO AND INCLUDING "SECRET", MUST BY US LAW AND REGULATION MOVE ON US CARGO SERVICES. (PASSENGER SERVICES ARE NOT RPT NOT USED BECAUSE OF DANGER OF HIJACKING.)

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2. SOME OF THE MAIL ORIGINATES IN US, SOME IN THE UK, AND

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SOME IN THE FRG (THIS LAST ROUTED FRANKFURT-LONDON-PARIS OR ROME FOR LACK OF DIRECT US CARGO SERVICE TO DESTINATION.) USAF POSTAL AUTHORITIES ESTIMATE VOLUME INVOLVED TO BE MAXIMUM OF 3,000 POUNDS PER MONTH DEPARTING LONDON FOR PARIS AND ROME.

3. WE WOULD NOT WISH TO SEE THIS ISSUE BECOME INTERTWINED WITH DISPUTE OVER INTERPRETATION OF ROUTE 5 RIGHTS, BUT NEITHER WOULD WE WISH TO SEE RESOLUTION OF MAIL PROBLEM IN ANY WAY COMPROMISE OUR POSITION IN ROUTE 5 MATTER. THEREFORE EMBASSY'S LETTER TO DTI SHOULD, IF POSSIBLE, AVOID MENTION OF ROUTE 5, CONCENTRATING INSTEAD ON FORMULATION SUCH AS "EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS UK AUTHORITIES WOULD BE PREPARED ON WRITTEN REQUEST TO APPROVE CARRIAGE OF US MILITARY MAILS ON CARGO SERVICES OPERATED BY US AIRLINES ETC.".

4. FYI: AS PRACTICAL MATTER, PAN AM HAS FOR MANY YEARS CARRIED MILITARY MAIL LONDON-PARIS ON CARGO SERVICES WHILE DTI, (EITHER UNAWARE OR UNCONCERNED) POSED NO OBJECTION. HOWEVER, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, PAN AM IN NOVEMBER 1973 SOUGHT TO MOVE PLANELOAD OF INTERNATIONAL MAIL (NOT RPT NOT MILITARY MAIL) NEW YORK-PARIS-LONDON, TO WHICH DTI OBJECTED AS PROHIBITED UNDER ROUTE 5 STRICTURES. AS RESULT, PAN AM REPORTEDLY ADVISED USAF POSTAL AUTHORITIES OF FUTURE INABILITY TO LIFT US MAILS FROM LONDON TO PARIS AND ROME, PLEADING LACK OF AUTHORITY UNDER US/UK BILATERAL. END FYI. RUSH

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